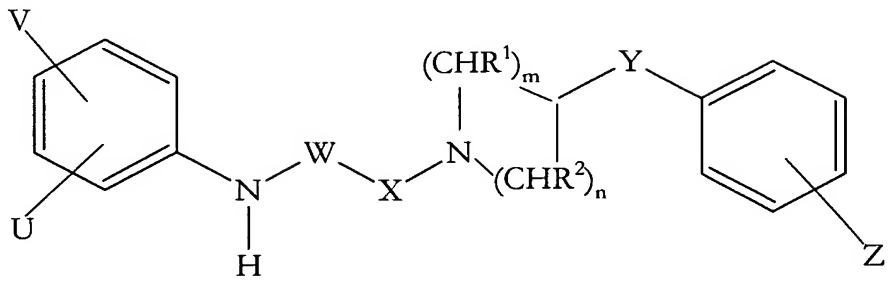
ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein: V and U are hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 alkylamino, or together form a group that contains one or more heteroatoms, and that taken together with one or more:

(a) hydrogen atoms;

(b) carbon atoms;

(c) -CH= groups;

(d) $-CH_2-$ groups; or

(e) additional heteroatoms of the same or different type;

or any combination thereof, form a 4-7 membered homocyclic or heterocyclic ring, wherein the homocyclic or heterocyclic ring may combine with the phenyl group to form a bicyclic ring, and wherein the homocyclic or heterocyclic ring or the bicyclic ring may contain one or more oxo, thioxo, amino, mercapto, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl, =S or -SH groups;

W: is -CO-, $-CH_2-$ or $-CH_2-(C_1$-C_4 alkyl)-;

X: is -CO-;

Y: is -O-, C_1-C_4 alkylene, C_1-C_4 alkynylene, cycloalkylene, aminocarbonyl, -NH-, $-N(C_1$-C_4 alkyl)-, $-C_1$-C_4 alkylene-$N(C_1$-C_4 alkyl)-, $-CH_2O-$, -CH(OH)- or $-OCH_2-$;

Z: is hydrogen, halogen, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, cyano, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl or carboxyl;

R^1 and R^2: are hydrogen, or together form a C_1-C_3 bridge; and

n and m: independently are 0-3, wherein n and m cannot each be 0;

or an optical antipode, racemate or pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. The carboxylic acid amide derivatives of formula (I) are highly effective and selective antagonists of the NMDA receptor.